



NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY WOODTURNING CLUB

Newsletter August 2025



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Notes From The Editor

In this issue, you will find my report from Chestnut's Woodturning Weekender. Four demonstrators over two days plus several local woodturning clubs and lots of traders too. They have also booked next year's event. See details inside.



Due to a calendar mix up, Ian Ethel didn't turn up for his demonstration this month. John Evans and Bob Smith stepped in and gave a very creditable demo on zero notice. Pictures can be found inside.

Club member Chris Grimshaw turned a massive acorn at the Bulkington workshop. He also turned a massive mushroom/stool. Pictures inside.

Our next demonstration on Tuesday 2nd September, is club member and Ornamental Turner Malcolm Thorpe, Having recently joined the Society of Ornamental Turners, I am looking forward to his demo.

The meeting after, on Tuesday 16th September is a Christmas-themed Hands-On. The aim is to start producing items for sale for the Hinckley Market stall in November when they turn on the Christmas lights. Please come along with your ideas of simple but saleable Christmas items.

Henry Taylor are holding an open day, this Sunday 31st August. Details inside. I'm going.

Paddy Byrne has started booking demos for next year. See the back page for details.

Rob Sheehan

Secretary, Newsletter Editor & Web Site Manager

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OPEN DAY

Sunday 31st August 2025

10am - 3:30pm

- Acorn, Diamic & Hamlet tools retail stands
- Woodturning & wood carving demonstrations
- Visiting woodturning & wood carving clubs
- Timber sale from Albion Timber
- Raffle
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Barwell Carnival Stall 16/8/25

The club had a stall at the Barwell Carnival to raise funds for the Air Ambulance. Thanks to all involved, we raised £236.19 (plus £25 that we had to pay for the stall). Thanks to John Evans for arranging the stall and all who turned up to help. Photo is courtesy of club member Ian Pinfold.



John Evans 19/8/25

Picking a Yew log from the club's cupboard, John turned a good looking bud vase.



Bob Smith 19/8/25

From a 6" diameter by 3" deep blank of Tulip Wood (American Poplar), Bob turned a very nice bowl.



Chris Grimshaw 27/8/25

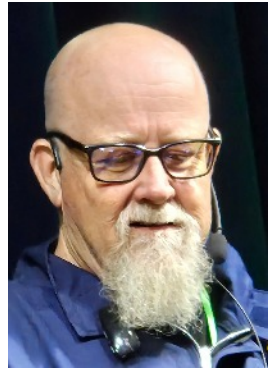
From a large, very wet log of Pine, Chris turned an acorn at Bulkington. Only John Thompson's big lathe at Bulkington could manage this size of blank. Finished, it weighs nearly 30 lbs. Chris used an oil finish. Chris also turned a large mushroom/stool.



Chestnut Woodturning Weekender

Andy Fortune

Andy was the first demonstrator of the weekend. He started by giving a very interesting presentation on the structure, history and types of tree/timber. He also showed us some items made from the timber removed from St. Paul's cathedral when their bells were renovated.



Using a faceplate and 1" screws, Andy trued up the edge and shaped the outside. His preferred method of holding a bowl to be hollowed is a recess, as it requires no further finishing. After sanding 80g - 180g, Andy applied a coat of Tung oil. This was cut back with wire wool and a second coat applied. Usually, he would leave 24 hours between coats of oil.



Andy hollowed out the bowl, leaving a 10mm thick wall. A french curve scraper refined the inside. He then sanded forward 80g - 180g and reverse 120g - 180g before oiling as before.



Andy Fortune - continued



The finished bowl



Andy Fortune - continued

Andy's second project was a platter. He said the size of foot depended on the expected use of the bowl/platter. A display/serving dish can have a narrow foot but a dish for eating requires a wider foot.



As an extra feature, Andy slightly dished the rim. He used the shape of a round nose scraper to do this. He also put a little bevel on the edge.



Andy Fortune- continued

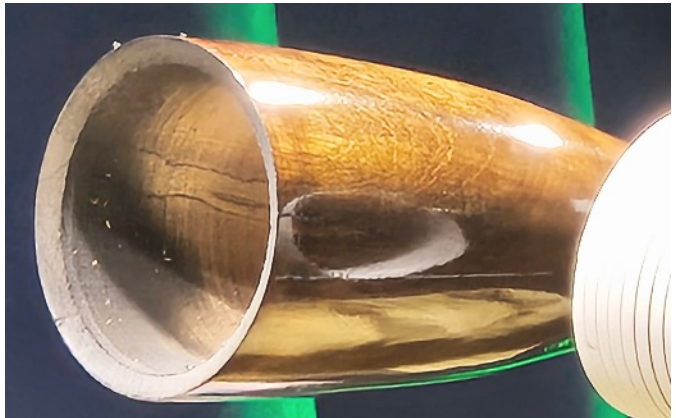
Andy's third project was a vase in London Plane. He started by shaping the outside and creating a chucking spigot. Holding it on the spigot, Andy drilled the centre. To do this, he used a Forstner bit welded onto a long handle.



The long-handled drill in use. It looked scary but it's quicker than using a drill bit in the tail stock.

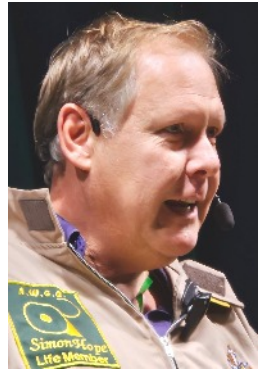


Andy coloured the outside with Purple & Yellow Chestnut spirit stains to give a gold effect. The finish is Chestnut acrylic gloss lacquer.

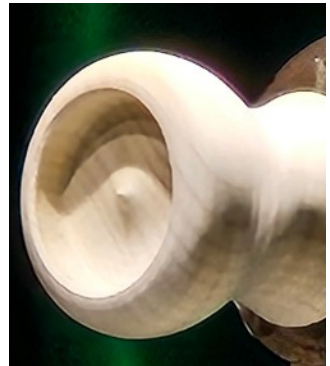


Chestnut Woodturning Weekender Simon Hope

Simon's first project was a Sea Shell Salt Shaker. There is no picture of the final piece as, after he had finished, he handed it to the audience and it never reappeared.



Simon turned the spindle blank to round and marked it out. A spigot on each end and the rest split $\frac{1}{3}$ & $\frac{2}{3}$. The top $\frac{1}{3}$ was mounted in the chuck. Simon turned a cove in the middle.



The outside was shaped like a cone and drilled right through, ready for hollowing.



The centre was hollowed, leaving a thin wall.



Simon Hope- continued

The top was then cut at a 45° angle.

The body is shown below. Unfortunately, he didn't stop to show the final piece, so make of it what you can. There is a small 2mm hole between the top and base of the shell box. The box lid is held in place with waxed thread held in a groove in the box base spigot.



Simon Hope- continued

Simon's second project was a platter with a resin insert in the rim. After turning the bottom, Simon flattened the face and cut a 10mm wide recess approximately 6mm deep.



Simon used Halfords' Isopon FastGlas resin. This has an orange colour so it is better used when adding coloured pigments. Simon used a mix of blue and white pigments. Taking the chuck off the lathe & standing it on a flat surface, Simon added the hardener to the coloured resin and poured it into the groove. Time ran out before the resin had set for the platter to be finished.

Simon Hope- continued

Simon's next project was an off-centre candlestick taken from a project by Jean-François Escoulen. He mounted the square block, corner to corner, between steb centres. The candle recess had already been drilled at one end. As it is mounted corner to corner, it is very well balanced, so it can be turned at a high speed.



Simon turned a ball in the centre using a skew chisel and spindle gouge.



He then shaped the two outside blocks, curving down to the centre ball.



Back between centres, Simon turned a small egg-cup at the top and a larger egg-cup for the base of the candlestick. Again, it was passed to the audience before I could get a picture of the finished piece.



Chestnut Woodturning Weekender

Katie Armstrong

Katie first started woodturning as part of her Duke of Edinburgh challenge and she became the youngest member of the RPT. Her first project was called “Bowl and Arrow” taken from one of David Springett’s Woodturning Wizardry book.



Katie flattened the face of the blank and turned the edge to round. She then marked a chucking spigot and turned the curved profile. The rim was left proud. The base was also left quite thick as this was going to be a “wobble” bowl, so the spigot was going to be removed completely, leaving a rounded bottom.

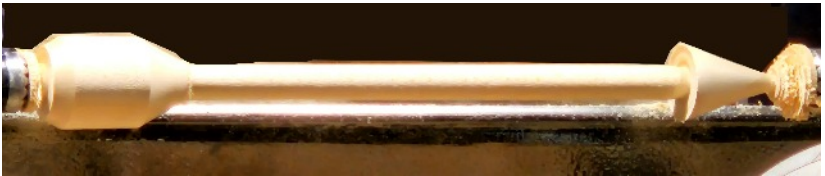


Katie turned a cove at the rim of the bowl. The diameter had to be carefully measured to fit a “Blue Peter” arrow that had been prepared earlier.

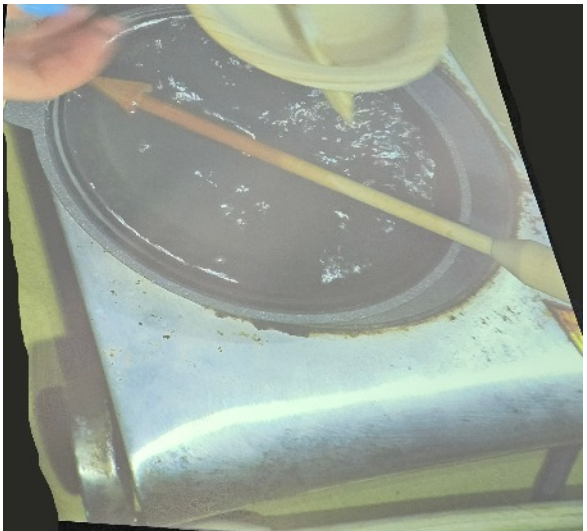


Katie Armstrong- continued

Before hollowing the inside, Katie drilled holes into the coved rim of the bowl. These must be big enough to take the shaft of the arrow, but smaller than the arrow head. The holes should be drilled into the side grain, not the end grain. She then hollowed the bowl, sanded and finished it with Lemon oil. Katie is not a fan of high gloss finishes.

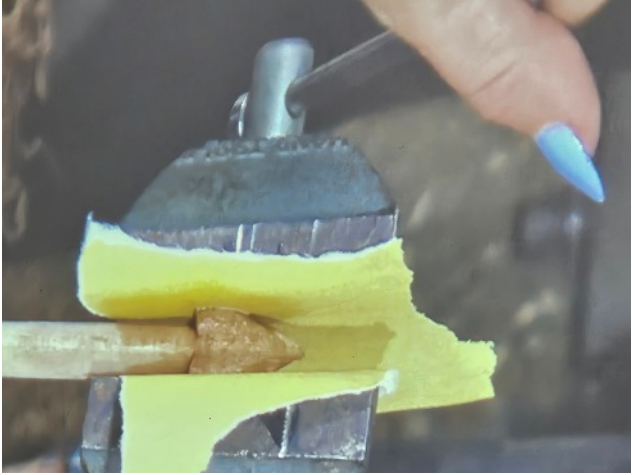


Katie turned the arrow between centres. Lime or Ash is good. The shaft must be a clearance fit through the holes with the head and flights larger. The 3 flights and head will be carved later. Once carved, the arrow head is boiled in water for about 20 minutes.



Katie Armstrong- continued

The head of the arrow is then squeezed in a vice, to the same diameter as the shaft. It must be left to cool and dry completely in the vice for 24 hours. Sand paper stops it slipping in the vice jaws.



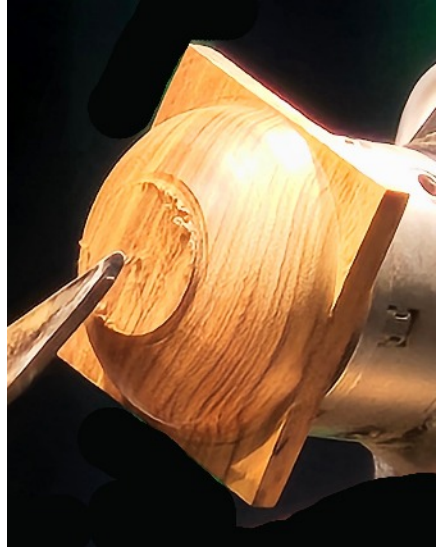
The compressed arrow head is then pushed through the holes in the bowl. The head is then soaked in hot water again to expand back to its original shape.



The completed puzzle Bowl and Arrow.
This arrow is shown with 4 flights (easier to carve). A proper arrow only has 3.



Katie Armstrong- continued



Katie's final project was a square edged bowl. Accurate cutting and marking is essential. Katie cut up $\frac{2}{3}$ the height of the blank using a high speed (1600 rpm). The curve of the bowl leaves a small flat area all around the bottom of the rim.

The finished bowl with protruding rim. The wings were sanded by hand with the lathe stopped.



Chestnut Woodturning Weekender

Andy Matthews

Andy turned a beaded hollow form with a very narrow neck. This makes it look very difficult to hollow. The secret is to turn it in two halves and then to hide the join.



The Walnut blank, 210mm x 100mm x 100mm.

Andy turned it to round and added a chucking spigot at both ends. He then parted down the middle with a narrow parting tool.



The ends were curved down, leaving a pine cone or pineapple shape. The centre was then drilled with a Forstner bit.



On this half, Andy cut a recess to join the two halves.



Andy Matthews- continued

Half of the hollow form has been hollowed out. The other half was turned similarly but Andy turned a spigot to fit the recess.



The glued-up hollow form. PVA glue left for 24 hours to dry. Andy then drilled the small entrance hole in the end.

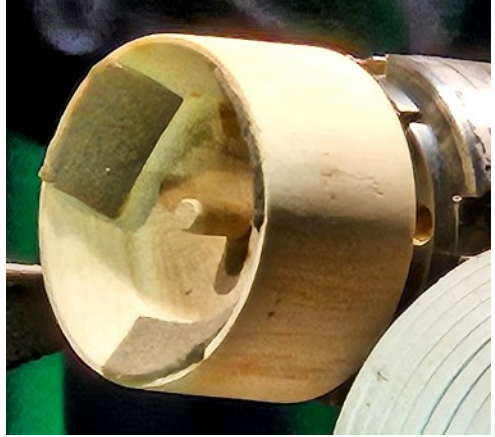


Adding the beads with a beading tool. Andy started the beads from the centre outwards. One leg of the beading tool started on the join.



Andy Matthews- continued

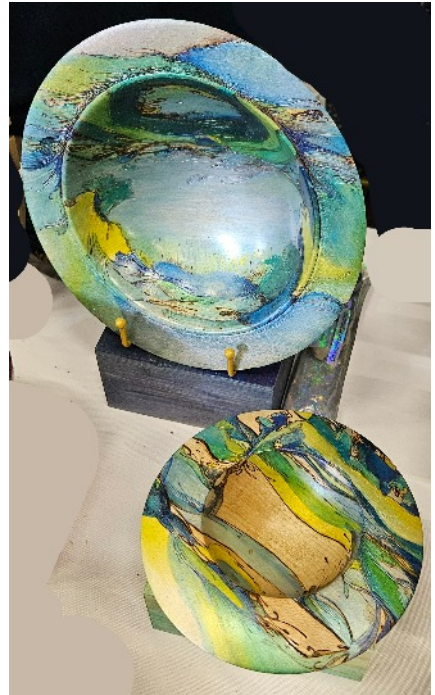
A home-made spigot/jam chuck to hold the piece while the bottom is finished. The protruding spigot fits into the hole in the neck and the cup supports the piece. Fine Webrax inside the cup grips the piece and also stops it being marked when driven.



The beaded hollow form with an oil finish.



Weekender Interesting Items



Weekender Interesting Items- continued





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Members' Work



Items For Sale

Disclaimer

The club is not responsible for any item appearing on this page. The buyer and seller must make their own arrangements as to the condition, suitability, delivery, payment and price etc.

Diamond Scroll Saw for sale

Former Chairman of Hinckley Woodturning Club, Brian Hartwell, has a Diamond Scroll Saw for sale. Price £65.



Sunflowers by Ian Pinfold

And finally, as we are about to start Autumn, a reminder from club member Ian Pinfold, that we have had a hot summer. His 11' sunflowers are the tallest I've ever seen. Unless you know different...



NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY

CLUB EVENTS 2025

September	2nd	Ornametal Turning	Malcolm Thorpe
	16th	Hands-On	Christmas Theme
October	7th	Demo	Chris Grimshaw - Resin
	21st	AGM	
November	4th	Demo	Rick Dobney
	18th	Demo	Bill Bennett
	21st	Hinckley Christmas Lights Stall	
December	2nd	Demo	Ian Ethel
	16th	Christmas Party	

CLUB EVENTS 2026

March	3rd	TBD	
	17th	Demo	Terry Bray
May	1st-2nd	Woodworks at Daventry	
	5th	Demo	Emma Cook
	19th	TBD	
September	1st	Demo	Tony Jones
	15th	TBD	
October	6th	Demo	Wolfgang Shulze-Zachau
	20th	TBD	

Events at Coombe Abbey

Scroll Saw demo by Giovanni Deida

Saturday September 6th 10am - 4pm. Walsgrave Baptist Church